GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2016
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Studentsâ€™ Dropout Rate
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the children in the country are out of school and majority of the enrolled students leave their education incomplete;
(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
(c) if not, the reasons therefor;
(d) whether the high dropout rate among girls is common in the country and if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
(e) whether the Government proposes any scheme aimed at reinstating/ mainstreaming school dropouts or students from the Madarsas, minority institutions and provide quality education to each and every child;
(f) if so, the details thereof along with the number of students benefitted from the same; and
(g) the details of various stakeholders consulted in the designing of the said programmes and their implementation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a) to (c): As per an independent survey commissioned by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in 2014, 60.64 lakh children were estimated to be out of school in the age group of 6-13 years. The number of out of school children has declined from 134.59 lakh in 2005 to 60.64 lakh in 2014 in the same age group.
The dropout rate of students alongwith other educational indicators is captured through Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE). As per UDISE data, the average annual dropout rate at elementary level has declined from 4.15% in 2013-14 to 4.10% in 2014-15, whereas at the secondary level the dropout rate has reduced from 17.86% in 2013-14 to 17.06% in 2014-15.
(d): The dropout rate among girls in the country at elementary level has consistently declined in the last three years. Dropout rates of girls during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are 4.45%, 4.26% and 4.09% at elementary level.
At secondary level, as per UDISE data, the dropout rate of the girls for the year 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 are 14.54%, 17.79% and 16.88% respectively. State/UT-wise details of dropout rate of girls at elementary and secondary level as per UDISE, during the last three years are at Annexure.
(e) & (f): Section 4 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. Those children who have missed out certain academic years either because they were never enrolled in school or dropped out of school, have a right to special training in residential and non residential mode, subsequently to be mainstreamed in formal schools in age appropriate class. Facility of special training is also extended to children studying in unaided Madarsas for mainstreaming them in regular schools.
Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rs. 103.07 lakh children have benefitted from the special training from 2011-12 to 2015-16. For the year 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 64204.69 lakh has been approved for special training of 11,29,881 children, out of which Rs. 7051.35 lakh has been approved for special training of 1,38,941 children studying in Madarsas.
The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme was launched in 2009 with one of the objectives to reduce dropout rate of students and to improve retention rate at the secondary stage. The scheme provides for improving access by approving new secondary school and by provisioning for additional classrooms, science laboratory, library, computer rooms, art/craft/culture rooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc. in new secondary schools and existing secondary schools, to reduce dropout. Interventions like survey and identification of out of school children, awareness programme, bridge courses, special teaching for learning enhancement etc. have also been supported under RMSA to address issue relating to dropout. Under RMSA, 12,394 secondary schools have been approved since inception across all States/UTs, out of which 10,397 secondary schools have already become

functional. RMSA has also supported strengthening of infrastructure of existing schools in 37,382 Government Secondary Schools in India.
The MHRD is also implementing the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) to encourage traditional institutions like Madarsas and Maktabs by giving financial assistance to introduce science, mathematics, social studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that academic proficiency for Classes I to XII is attainable for children studying in these institutions.
(g): There is greater emphasis on community involvement and ownership in the management of schools after RTE Act, 2009 came into force. School Management Committees are being constituted with 75% members being the parents of children studying in respective schools. The purpose of greater parental participation is to involve all stakeholders in the functioning of the schools and to empower the community to run schools as per their aspirations.
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